

November 30, 2006  
Jail Meeting

Minutes

Present

Kim Clark Phillips- Chairman  
Allen Sneed  
Brady Wooten  
Roy Douglas  
Major Danny Widener  
Josh Collins

Others Present

Eric Williams-Interim County Manager  
Melinda Vestal-Clerk to the Board

Jail Members absent

Jeanie Houston  
Tom Kilby  
Lee Zackary  
Sheriff Cain  
Tom Horner

Chair Phillips called the meeting to order.

**\*Commissioner Wooten made the motion to approve the agenda.  
Major Widener seconded. The vote was unanimous.**

Commissioner Wooten asked that the attendance/committee roster be checked.

Chair Phillips reviewed the list of members for the Jail Committee.

Commissioner Wooten reviewed Roberts Rules of Order regarding debate.

**\*Commissioner Wooten made a motion to rescind the approval of building a new jail to allow the new Board members to be brought up to speed and to bring better information to the Judge. Motion dies; lack of second.**

Commissioner Wooten discussed the proposed new jail, the Judges' order and the Grand Jury Report. He stated proper planning has not been done by the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Steve Allan presented a proposal for a new Yadkin County jail.

Commissioner Wooten and Mr. Allan exchanged conversations.

Commissioner Wooten discussed maintenance issues and repairs at the jail. He commented there needed to be extensive planning for future building needs not just for the jail.

Commissioner Sneed asked to proceed with building a new jail with discussing possible jail sites. He also stated that other jails have been looked at and the County could build a jail for approximately \$5 million. Commissioner Sneed stated a new jail could be built without raising taxes or hurting the funding for the schools. He informed the Committee that \$248,000 is being spent on housing prisoners outside the County. He suggested borrowing the money the same way as the money was borrowed for the schools' additions. He also stated that in 18 months other major project debts would be paid off; 31.5% of the project loans are the hospital payments at \$155,000 and this money with the funds we already spend on housing inmates in other counties pay for a jail.

Mr. Allan stated that he had a criteria check list for possible sites for a new jail. He suggested narrowing the sites down to 2-3 and hiring an Architect to certify the site. Mr. Allan presented a complete comprehensive jail study.

Commissioner Sneed asked about the legalities for changing zoning inside the Town limits.

Mr. Allan stated it could be hard, but he also cautioned the Committee not to be overly concerned if the jail is not right beside the courthouse.

Chairman Phillips thanked Mr. Allan for his time and services.

Commissioner Wooten reviewed the Grand Jury Report and the proposed cost analysis to make the repairs.

Major Widener stated there was a cost analysis presented with a figure of \$300,000, but the issue remains that the jail only holds 29 beds.

Commissioner Wooten asked Chairman Phillips to look at what could be done now. The Judge cannot make us build a new jail.

Major Widener stated that the Judge can make the County provide adequate housing for prisoners. He also stated we can house prisoners outside the county if the other county will accept the prisoners.

Commissioner Wooten questioned the General Statute on the Judge's order; G.S. 153A-216 should be G.S. 153A-261. Commissioner Wooten discussed other items on the Judge's orders. He wants to ask the Judge for more time to bring the new Board members up to speed.

Commissioner Sneed discussed several possible sites for the new jail.

Chairman Phillips stated work is still being done to get the old prison property.

Commissioner Wooten stated the only thing that has been discussed is building a new jail. He stated he spoke with Chris Wood, DHHS (Dept of Health & Human Services) and Chris Wood informed him that they are the only ones who can close a jail. Commissioner Wooten stated the improvements at the jail are maintenance issues. He also discussed other options for housing prisoners. He stated the Grand Jury Report does not constitute closing the jail.

Chairman Phillips stated there is a difference in opinions and suggested that Commissioner Wooten address the Judge with his questions.

Major Widener stated the jail is inspected two times a year and they have never failed an inspection, but the jail is in non-compliance with current

State standards. The current jail is grandfathered in and that response is in every inspection report.

There was discussion about renovating the current jail.

Chairman Phillips stated the Comprehensive Jail Study from Mr. Allan allows the County to add more facilities to the area.

Commissioner Wooten stated once again that the repairs at the current jail are maintenance issues and replacement parts are available.

Chairman Phillips stated we could make the current facility adequate until the new jail could be built, so as not to close the jail.

Mr. Williams suggested hiring an Architect. He stated that when we meet with the Judge we should have possible site locations, financing options and have hired an Architect. He stated the Judges' order was very specific in what he wanted done. Mr. Williams stated there are not enough beds and the facilities are not adequate.

There was discussion on housing the inmates in other counties.

Commissioner Wooten discussed a modular type jail system which would cost approximately \$3 million or less.

Chairman Phillips suggested Commissioner Wooten visit the jail.

Mr. Williams stated the Judge is looking for the Board to be on the same page, with the same vision.

Commissioner Wooten stated that is not going to happen. He agrees that we need to provide adequate facilities.

There was discussion about the air conditioning at the jail and it would be reviewed after Christmas.

Commissioner Sneed stated the Jail Committee has done everything it was directed, so therefore the jail issue should now be turned over to the Board of Commissioners.

**\*Commissioner Sneed made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Wooten seconded. The vote was unanimous.**

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Melinda Vestal, CMC  
Clerk to the Board